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Police and Youths Clash Near Paris

By REUTERS

PARIS, Oct. 22 (Reuters) — The French police and youths clashed in a Paris suburb on Sunday as tensions mounted ahead of the anniversary of riots last year that shocked the country and provoked renewed debate about the integration of immigrants into French society.

A police spokesman said 30 to 50 individuals were involved in the clashes, in Grigny, south of Paris. He said youths had set several cars on fire and had ordered passengers off a bus and set it on fire, leading to the clash with the police. "There are still some sporadic incidents, mostly stone throwing," he said.

In a statement, the police union urged the government to deploy "a visible and large number" of riot police officers to discourage youths from attacking patrols. Recently, patrols in a number of towns across the country have been hit by gasoline bombs.

"This latest clash marks the progressive start of a repeat of the riots of November 2005," the statement said, referring to the incident in Grigny.

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